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Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2367

June 16, 1988

V.P. AT USDA

On June 15, Vice President George Bush visited the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He said, "Senator Bob Dole and Sec'y of Agriculture Dick Lyng have just given me a briefing about the terrible drought confronting our nation's farmers. I am very concerned about the highly adverse weather conditions affecting this important sector of our economy.... The Administration is working closely with the members of the Senate and the House, and we hope to do whatever we can to minimize the effect of this drought on U.S. agriculture. But sad to say, nothing will take the place of rainfall, and we have to be concerned about the plight of this nation's farmers."

1989 FARM PROGRAMS

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced the common provisions of the 1989 farm programs, which included the following: Limited cross compliance will be in effect for the 1989 crops of wheat, corn, sorghum, barley, upland cotton and rice, but not for oats and extra long staple cotton...To be eligible under the cross compliance provision for price support loans, purchases or payments for those crops, the acreage planted for harvest on a farm may not exceed the crop acreage bases for these commodities...Production of non-program crops on land idled under the various acreage reduction programs will not be permitted...In the event of a natural disaster, haying and grazing of conservation use and acreage conservation reserve may also be permitted during the prohibited 5-month period in those counties which are determined to be adversely affected by the USDA. For more information, contact your county ASCS office.

FARMLAND VALUES END DECLINE

U.S. farmland values have risen this year for the first time since 1982, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The February 1988 value at \$564 per acre was 3 percent above a year earlier, but one-third below the record \$823 in 1982. The real value was down slightly from last year, as the 4-percent inflation rate in 1987 exceeded the nominal increase in land values. The 1988 real value was nearly 50 percent below the 1980 record. Farmland values throughout 1988 and early 1989 are expected to increase at or slightly below the rate of inflation, which is forecast at around 4 percent.

DROUGHT-DISASTER
PROGRAMS

As of June 15, 1,010 counties in 20 States were approved for emergency haying and grazing of acreage conservation reserve and conservation use acreage, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ninety-five counties in eight States were approved for the emergency feed program with USDA sharing costs.

WORLD WHEAT
IMPORT DEMAND
FOR 1988/89

The world wheat import demand is expected to total around 99 million metric tons in 1988/89, a decline of about 4 percent from the year earlier level, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Imports by the USSR, the world's largest importer of wheat over the past 10 years, are expected to fall to 15 million tons from last year's revised estimate of 21 million 500 thousand tons.

WORLD WHEAT
EST. FOR
1988/89

The world wheat production of 1988/89 is estimated in a June 10 report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 521½ million metric tons, up 700 thousand or less than 1 percent from last month and up 3 percent from last year's harvest. U.S. production is estimated at 57 million 700 thousand tons, down 1 million 400 thousand from last month, and up less than 1 percent from last year. European Community production is estimated at 74 million 900 thousand tons, up 5 percent from last year's crop. East Europe production is estimated at 41 million 600 thousand tons, up 6 percent from last year.

WORLD COARSE
GRAINS EST.
1988/89

The world coarse grains production for 1988/89 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as of June 10 at 805 million 100 thousand tons, up 700 thousand, up 2 percent from last year. European Community's production is estimated at 85 million 300 thousand tons, up 4 percent from last year. East Europe's production of coarse grains is estimated at 70 million 500 thousand tons, up 10 percent from last year's drought-affected crop.

WORLD OILSEED
EST. FOR 1988/89

The world production of oilseed for 1988/89 is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 208 million tons, up 3 million or 1 percent from 1987/88. U.S. production is forecast at 59 million 300 thousand tons, down 1 percent from 1987/88.

WORLD COTTON
EST. FOR 1988/89

The world cotton production for 1988/89 is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 83 million 500 thousand bales, unchanged from last month, but up 5 percent from 1987/88. U.S. production is projected at 14 million bales, down 5 percent from last year.

1987/88
PRODUCTION
HIGHLIGHTS

The world wheat production for 1987/88 is estimated at 504 million 800 thousand tons, down marginally from last month. World coarse grains production for 1987/88 is estimated at 787 million 500 thousand tons, up 2 million 600 thousand from last month. World oilseeds for 1987/88 is estimated at 205 million tons, up more than 5 percent from last year. World cotton production is estimated at 79 million 800 thousand bales, up 13 percent from a year ago.

WORLD COTTON
PROSPECTS FOR
1988/89

World cotton prospects for 1988/89 continue to point to larger production, stable consumption and slightly larger stocks, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The output is projected at 83 million 500 thousand bales, one million above total use and nearly 4 million above the 1987/88 crop. Relatively high U.S. cotton prices are expected to dampen demand, lowering total use by one-tenth to less than 13 million bales.

WOOD PRODUCTS

The value of U.S. solid wood exports for the first quarter was nearly \$1 billion 200 million, a 35 percent increase over the first quarter of 1987, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Japan increased imports by more than 25 percent over the previous first quarter to slightly more than \$471 million.

FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1620... (Weekly 13½ min documentary) There are many, many different types of insurance...but how do you know if you have too much or too little insurance? Brenda Curtis talks with University of Maryland Extension home economist Mary Stevenson about some of the major types of insurance a person needs.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1608... (Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Drought update; Conservation reserve planning; Soviets promote freer agricultural trade; Global warming and agriculture.

CONSUMER TIME #1100... (Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) The master gardener; Feeling cold? Check your iron; How much property insurance is enough?; Changing supermarkets; Nutritious snacks.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE... Wed, July 6, Weekly weather and crop update; Dairy products update; Tues, July 12, Weekly weather and crop report; U.S. crop production; Soviet grain outlook; World ag. supply and demand. Wed, July 13, Livestock and poultry outlook; World grain and crop production; World oilseed outlook; World cotton outlook. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

TELEVISION SERVICE programs, A BETTER WAY, DOWN TO EARTH, AGRICULTURAL UPDATE and SATELLITE NEWS are available on satellite Westar IV, audio 6.2 or 6.8 as follows:

Thursdays....AG UPDATE/SATELLITE NEWS, 7:30-7:45 p.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

Saturdays....A BETTER WAY, 10:00-10:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X
ORIGINAL DOWN TO EARTH, 10:30-11:00 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X
UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X

Mondays.....A BETTER WAY, 8:00-8:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D
REPEAT DOWN TO EARTH, 8:30-9:00 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D
UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 9:00-9:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

A BETTER WAY is also available on The Learning Channel SATCOM 3R, Transponder 2, Audio 6.8 each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. ET.

OFF MIKE

USDA Radio will be providing coverage of the Crop Quality Conference taking place in St. Louis, Missouri, on June 30, July 1 and 2. USDA Radio is also covering the Agricultural Communicators Conference taking place in Washington, D.C. on July 11, 12 and 13. Sessions being covered include trade with U.S. GATT Representative Daniel Amstutz and U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter; Regulating pesticides and erosion; Food safety issues; Farm Credit bailout update; Biotechnology at a crossroads; State of Agriculture speech by Secretary Richard Lyng. Reports from other sessions may be included as time permits on the USDA News Line.

Farm Broadcasters Letter
Radio and Television, Rm. 410A
Office of Information, OGPA
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

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